

Amendments

In the Claims:

Please substitute the following claims 30-36, 40, 41, 46, 49, 55, 56 and 66-71 for the pending claims 30-36, 40, 41, 46, 49, 55, 56 and 66-71:

30. (Twice Amended) A kit for transvenously accessing the pericardial space between a human heart and its pericardium to perform a medical procedure on the human heart, the kit comprising:

a guide catheter;

an infusion guide wire coaxial with said guide catheter substantially throughout a length of said guide catheter; and

C1 a leading guide wire for entering the human heart transvenously in combination with the infusion guide wire, the leading guide wire being coaxial with said infusion guide wire and having a diameter sufficiently small for passing through a lumen of said infusion guide wire, said leading guide wire having a sufficient length for passing through and protruding from a distal end of said infusion guide wire, the leading guide wire having a distal end for penetrating a wall of a right atrium of the human heart,

wherein said infusion guide wire and said leading guide wire both have sufficient flexibility for simultaneously passing transvenously through said guide catheter into the right atrium.

C2 31. (Amended) The kit of claim 30, wherein said infusion guide wire has a diameter sufficiently small for passing through a lumen of said guide catheter, said infusion guide wire having a sufficient length for passing through said guide catheter into said right atrium via a transvenous route.

32. (Amended) The kit of claim 30, wherein said guide catheter has sufficient length and flexibility for transvenous insertion into said right atrium.

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33. (Amended) The kit of claim 30, wherein said infusion guide wire has sufficient flexibility for conforming at least partially to a contour of said human heart when said infusion guide wire is extended outward from a distal end of said guide catheter and into said pericardial space.

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34. (Twice Amended) The kit of claim 33, wherein said infusion guide wire functions as an aspiration catheter having a lumen of sufficient diameter for passing said infusion guide wire over said leading guide wire and into said pericardial space for removal of fluid from said pericardial space for treating cardiac tamponade.

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35. (Amended) The kit of claim 30, wherein said leading guide wire has sufficient flexibility for conforming at least partially to a contour of said human heart when said leading guide wire is extended outward from a distal end of said guide catheter and into said pericardial space.

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36. (Twice Amended) The kit of claim 35, wherein said infusion guide wire functions as an aspiration catheter having a lumen of sufficient diameter for passing said infusion guide wire transvenously over said leading guide wire and into said pericardial space for removal of fluid from said pericardial space for treating cardiac tamponade.

40. (Twice Amended) A kit for transvenously accessing a pericardial space between a human heart and its pericardium to perform a medical procedure on said human heart, the kit comprising:

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a guide catheter for transvenous insertion into a right atrium of said human heart;

an infusion guide wire within said guide catheter for transvenous insertion into said right atrium and having sufficient stiffness for transvenously traversing a patient's anatomy;

a hollow leading guide wire for passing through a lumen of said infusion guide wire and for extending through said infusion guide wire,

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wherein said leading guide wire has sufficient length for passing through and protruding from a distal end of said infusion guide wire, and has a distal end for penetrating a wall of said right atrium, said leading guide wire being sufficiently flexible for passing through said guide catheter and into said right atrium via a transvenous route.

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41. (Amended) The kit of claim 40, wherein said leading guide wire has sufficient flexibility for conforming at least partially to a contour of said human heart when said leading guide wire is extended outward from a distal end of said guide catheter and into said pericardial space.

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46. (Amended) The kit of claim 30, wherein said kit is adapted to perform a surgical procedure on said human heart.

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49. (Amended) The kit of claim 30, wherein said infusion guide wire and said leading guide wire jointly have sufficient pushability for penetrating into said pericardial space through said wall of said right atrium without kinking.

55. (Amended) A dual guide wire for transvenously accessing a pericardial space between a human heart and its pericardium to perform a medical procedure on said human heart comprising:

an infusion guide wire; and

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a leading guide wire for insertion through said infusion guide wire and having a diameter sufficiently small for passing through a lumen of said infusion guide wire, said leading guide wire having a sufficient length for passing through and protruding from a distal end of said infusion guide wire, said leading guide wire having a distal end for penetrating a wall of a right atrium of said human heart,

wherein said dual guide wire is sufficiently flexible for transvenously passing into said right atrium, and wherein said dual guide wire is sufficiently pushable for penetrating into said pericardial space through a wall of said right atrium without kinking.

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56. (Amended) The dual guide wire of claim 55, wherein said dual guide wire has sufficient pushability for penetrating into said pericardial space through said wall of said right atrium without kinking while being aligned tangential to said wall.

66. (Amended) A dual guide wire for transvenously accessing a pericardial space between a human heart and its pericardium for performing a surgical procedure on said human heart comprising:

an infusion guide wire; and

a leading guide wire for transvenous insertion into a right atrium of said human heart through said infusion guide wire and for performing a surgical procedure on said human heart, said leading guide wire having a distal end for penetrating a wall of said right atrium, wherein said infusion guide wire and said leading guide wire jointly have sufficient pushability for penetrating said wall of said right atrium into said pericardial space without kinking.

67. (Amended) The kit of claim 66, wherein said infusion guide wire and said leading guide wire jointly have sufficient pushability for penetrating into said pericardial space through a wall of the right atrium without kinking while being aligned tangential to said wall.

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68. (Amended) A dual guide wire for transvenously accessing a pericardial space between a human heart and its pericardium comprising:

an infusion guide wire for transvenous insertion into said human heart; and

a leading guide wire for insertion into said human heart through said infusion guide wire,

wherein said dual guide wire has sufficient pushability for penetrating into said pericardial space through a wall of a right atrium of said human heart without kinking, and has sufficient steerability for steering to any location within said pericardium.

69. (Amended) A dual guide wire for transvenously accessing a pericardial space between a human heart and its pericardium for aspiration of fluid from said pericardial space to treat cardiac tamponade comprising:

an infusion guide wire for aspiration of fluid from said pericardial space to treat cardiac tamponade; and

a leading guide wire for transvenous insertion into said human heart through said infusion guide wire and having a distal end for penetrating a wall of a right atrium of said human heart,

wherein said dual guide wire has sufficient pushability for penetrating said wall of said right atrium into said pericardial space without kinking.

70. (Amended) A dual guide wire for transvenously accessing a pericardial space between a human heart and its pericardium to implant a surgical device within said human heart comprising:

an infusion guide wire for transvenous insertion into said human heart; and

a leading guide wire for insertion into said human heart through said infusion guide wire and having a distal end for penetrating a wall of a right atrium of said human heart, wherein said infusion guide wire and said leading guide wire jointly have sufficient pushability for penetrating said wall of said right atrium into said pericardial space without kinking,

wherein said dual guide wire is adapted for implantation of a surgical device within the human heart.

71. (Amended) The dual guide wire of claim 70, wherein said dual guide wire is adapted for implantation of said surgical device within a coronary artery of said human heart.

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